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FAE Chapter 2-3 Reflection

While reading Chapters 2 and 3 I learned a lot about the history of education and how the school systems of America have developed. I was really surprised at how long and complicated the history of teaching is in the U.S alone, never mind worldwide. I knew from the beginning of time teaching young ones important schools was always common found, however I never realized how long it took for teaching to lead to a functioning school system.

I found it interesting that schools, elementary to college level, were originally created to teach religion and train future ministers. I think it’s ironic that schools were originally made to teach religion, however nowadays there is a clear separation between religion and the public school system and most of the time it is actually against the law to teach religion in public schools. Although the Renaissance and Reformation shaped education in Europe early on, the school systems in the U.S were developed much later on. Many of the important concepts we learn in school today came from early philosophers from 400-300 BCE like Socrates and Plato, however educational reformers from the 19th century like Horace Mann and Henry Barnard were just as important to our current schools. This just shows how schools, teaching, and education are constantly changing and growing to adapt to new obstacles in the education system.

In chapter 3 there was more of a focus on the history of schools and teaching within the U.S. I found it amazing that many of the first teachers had barely any training and many times white servants were used as teachers. I also found it interesting just how many educational programs and bills have been instated over the years by the federal government. I personally think state and local government should be more involved because every school district has different circumstances and needs, therefore finical aid programs for schools should be modeled after the specific needs for each district. I do think it’s a great feat how fast the American school systems developed and how progressive we have become but I think there are a lot of problems with our current education system that aren’t being addressed correctly. I feel as if school systems are constantly struggling between the growing population of school systems, lacks in funding, and providing equal education for all students. The education system seems to be one big experiment that is constantly being changed and manipulated. Although I think improvements are necessary, a stable system that isn’t constantly being changed and works correctly could be really beneficial.